

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A composition ~~according to claim 1, said solution further including comprising:~~
water;
corn hemicellulose in solution in said water;
a surfactant, said surfactant being present in an amount effective to reduce the viscosity of said solution; and
a chloride salt, said chloride salt being present in an amount of chloride salt effective to enhance the hygroscopicity of said solution.
3. (Currently amended) A composition ~~according to claim 1, further comprising:~~
water;
corn hemicellulose in solution in said water;
a surfactant, said surfactant being present in an amount effective to reduce the viscosity of said solution; and
a crosslinking agent, said crosslinking agent being present in an amount effective to enhance the water resistance of said composition.
4. (Currently amended) A composition ~~according to claim 1, further comprising:~~
water;
corn hemicellulose in solution in said water;
a surfactant, said surfactant being present in an amount effective to reduce the viscosity of said solution; and
a lignin compound.
5. (Original) A composition comprising:
water;
a hemicellulose in solution in said water; and

a crosslinking agent, said crosslinking agent being present in an amount effective to enhance the water resistance of said composition.

6. (Original) A composition according to claim 5, further comprising a chloride salt, said chloride salt being present in an amount effective to increase the hygroscopicity of said solution.

7-24. (Canceled.)

25. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 5, said hemicellulose comprising corn hemicellulose.

26 - 28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The A composition of claim 27~~ further comprising:

water;

corn hemicellulose in solution in said water, said corn hemicellulose present in an amount of approximately 0.1 - 90 % on a dry solid basis of said composition;

a surfactant, said surfactant present in an amount of approximately 0.1 - 10% on a dry solid basis of said composition; and

a chloride salt, said chloride salt present in an amount of chloride salt effective to enhance the hygroscopicity of said composition.

30. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 29 comprising approximately 4% by weight surfactant.

31. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~27~~ 29 further comprising a crosslinking agent in an amount effective to enhance the water resistance of the composition.

32 - 45. (Canceled).

46. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An aqueous solution of ~~claim 45~~ further comprising:

approximately 0.1 – 90 % hemicellulose on a dry solid basis;

approximately 0.1 – 10% surfactant on a dry solid basis; and

a chloride salt, said chloride salt present in an amount of chloride salt effective to enhance the hygroscopicity of said solution.

47. (Currently Amended) The aqueous solution of claim ~~43~~ 46 comprising approximately 4% by weight surfactant.

48. (Previously presented) The aqueous solution of claim 46 further comprising a cross-linking agent in an amount effective to enhance the water resistance of the solution.

49 – 59 (Canceled).